

Communicable Diseases: Cleared to Land...



Chief Jim Nilo - Richmond International Airport

Why is the Richmond International Airport concerned with Communicable Diseases?



Sick Air Passenger Causes Quarantine

<http://mnweekly.rian.ru/world/20070531/55254914.html>

31/05/2007

ATLANTA (AP)— SARS on a plane. Mumps on a plane. And now a rare and deadly form of tuberculosis, on at least two planes.

Commercial air travel's potential for spreading infection continues to cause handwringing among public health officials, as Tuesday's news of a jet-setting man with a rare and deadly form of TB demonstrates.

"We always think of planes as a vehicle for spreading disease," said Dr. Doug Hardy, an infectious disease specialist at Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas.

Health officials on Tuesday, a Georgia man with extensive travel history, leading to the first U.S. government

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SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME

GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Guidance about SARS for Airline Flight Crews, Cargo and Cleaning Personnel, and Personnel Interacting with Arriving Passengers

This guidance is intended to assist commercial passenger airlines and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (BCBP), and other relevant agencies in establishing appropriate SARS-related precautions. Recommendations are based on standard infection control practices and on available epidemiologic information about the virus that causes SARS.

To supplement the general information provided here, the following sections provide information related to specific job functions:

- Guidance for Airline Flight Crews about Management of SARS
- Guidance about SARS for Airline Cleaning Personnel
- Guidance for Airline Cargo Personnel

Airline passengers could be at risk for TB

Man infected with the disease was on flights this month; he's in quarantine

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — A man with a rare and exceptionally dangerous form of tuberculosis has been placed in quarantine by U.S. government health officials yesterday.

- Owned and operated by the Capital Region Airport Commission
- 3.3 Million Passengers in 2006 in and growing...
- 200 daily commercial flights
- Nearly 10,000 passengers per day
- RIC has the ability to handle any size aircraft
- Aircraft can operate in near zero visibility at RIC
- 7% of passengers are international
- 12 airlines (including cargo)
- A popular spot for diversions



Diversions



Possible Scenario?

- An airliner with 297 passengers bound from Beijing, China en-route to Washington Dulles Airport diverts to Richmond due to inclement weather over Washington. While on the ground passengers complain about feeling ill...
- Airliners diverted into Richmond nearly 500 times in 2006...

A Brand New Plan

- In 2004 the airport completely renovated it's emergency plan
- Never before had public health been considered in the planning process
- Checklist for “All Hazards” planning went way beyond traditional emergency planning

Plan for what? Hazard Analysis

- 2001
 - Anthrax Scares
- 2003
 - Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)
- 2004
 - H5N1 Avian Flu Virus
- 2007
 - Tuberculosis



Plan Development Timeline

- 2001
 - Anthrax scares effect airport operations, airport officials work to formulate initial response plan
- 2004
 - Richmond International Airport creates SARS plan
 - AEP Updated
- 2005
 - CDC issues Template for Developing Airport-based Plans for Prevention of the Introduction of Quarantinable Diseases from Abroad
- 2006
 - SARS plan scope expanded to become “Communicable Disease Plan” and formally integrated into the Airport Emergency Plan (AEP)

Initial Planning Partners

- Henrico County
 - Fire & Rescue Department
 - Health Department
- Capital Region Airport Commission
 - Fire & Rescue Department
 - Police Department
 - Airport Operations
- US Customs & Immigration
- Passenger Airlines

Hazard Specific Appendix 12: Communicable Disease Infection Control Plan

- **MISSION**

- To effectively and efficiently prepare for, respond to, and recover from the any situation involving infectious diseases.

Hazard Specific Appendix 12: Communicable Disease Infection Control Plan

- **CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

- **PURPOSE:** This plan is based on the previous response plan for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), and has been expanded to address similar respiratory infectious diseases, to include novel influenza viruses such as the H5N1 strain of avian flu. This plan addresses the event that a scheduled or unscheduled aircraft arriving at the Richmond International Airport may have one or more suspected cases of a severe, highly contagious, communicable disease on board. **The plan also considers the discovery of a suspected case at the airport and not on an aircraft.**

Hazard Specific Appendix 12: Communicable Disease Infection Control Plan

- **BACKGROUND:** The federal government has legal authority to implement isolation, quarantine or other public health measures to prevent the introduction of specific diseases from abroad. The diseases subject to quarantine are established by Executive Order of the President and currently include:
 - Cholera and suspected cholera
 - Diphtheria
 - Communicable Tuberculosis
 - Plague
 - Smallpox
 - Yellow Fever
 - Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers (i.e. Ebola)
 - Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)
 - Influenza (Pandemic potential)

Hazard Specific Appendix 12: Communicable Disease Infection Control Plan

- **Authorities**
- **Notifications**
- **Security and Law Enforcement**
- **Isolation and Quarantine**
- **Public Information References**

What is happening today...

- Henrico County Health Department provides periodic updates on Public Health issues to the airport
- Henrico County Health Department maintains open communications with the Richmond International Airport on matters of Public Health
- Plan has been shared with many other airports as a model for local development

Thank you!



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